

STATINTL

Senate to Probe Dodd's Use of Campaign Gifts

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The Senate Ethics Committee has acknowledged, for the first time in its five-month-old probe of Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, that it will hold hearings on charges that the Connecticut Democrat misused campaign contributions.

Sen. John C. Stennis, D-Miss., chairman of the committee, closed the first round of hearings yesterday with the announcement that his staff was at work "primarily in ferreting out records, including financial records."

Stennis said the committee was "continuing to develop other matters that are included in the charges" originally levelled against Dodd by newspaper columnists Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson.

"There will be additional proceedings in keeping with our purpose to develop the essential facts in many of these major allegations," the chairman added.

Stennis said he could not predict a date for reopening hearings because the current investigation might be time-consuming. He also declined to specify what particular areas would be investigated, but other committee members said Dodd's campaign contributions would be thoroughly investigated.

As late as one month ago,

when the committee opened hearings into Dodd's relationship with Chicago public relations man Julius Klein, Stennis declined to indicate whether the probe would be expanded.

The committee closed its hearings on the Klein matter yesterday after receiving five full days of testimony in public sessions.